



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in support of SB 421
Senate Economic Development Committee
December 5, 2012**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jill Fritz and I am the Michigan state director for The Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of our Michigan members and constituents, I come in strong support of SB 421 to require the addition of a bittering agent to ethylene glycol-based engine coolant and antifreeze. If this bill is passed, Michigan would become the 18th state with this necessary protection for children, pets and wildlife.

Children and animals, including wildlife, endangered species pets, are accidentally poisoned each year from ingesting antifreeze that is improperly stored or disposed of by consumers. One survey estimates that 10,000 dogs and cats are poisoned by antifreeze ingestion each year. Another survey suggests the number could be as high as 90,000.

The Detroit Children's Hospital Poison Control Center reports that there have been at least 1,790 incidents of antifreeze poisoning of humans and animals in Michigan since 2002.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Poison Control Centers, the American Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Safety Council, the Pet Food Institute and the American Journal of Public Health all recommend adding an aversive agent to antifreeze.

The addition of denatonium benzoate, a common bittering agent for household products, will render engine coolant and antifreeze unpalatable to children, pets and wildlife. This step can aide in the prevention of ingestions leading to poisonings in children and save literally tens of thousands of pets from certain death every year. Adding denatonium benzoate is an additional tool, along with child-proof safety caps and correct storage of antifreeze and engine coolant, for protecting pets and people from lethal chemicals.

17 states, including Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, have already enacted antifreeze safety statutes.

Therefore, we urge passage of SB 421 to help protect children and animals in Michigan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jill Fritz
Michigan State Director
jfritz@humanesociety.org
(517) 515-3839